

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 /061 W

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R 030835Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4326

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJECT: SENTENCES PASSED ON DEFENDANTS IN MILITARY TECHNICAL
COLLEGE ATTACK

1. ON MAY 31, SUPREME STATE SECURITY COURT ISSUED JUDGMENTS
AGAINST 92 PERSONS ACCUSED OF TAKING PART IN LAST YEAR'S ATTACK ON
MILITARY TECHNICAL COLLEGE. THREE HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO
DEATH, 29 TO PRISON SENTENCES WITH HARD LABOR (8 FOR LIFE, 7 FOR
15 YEARS, 8 FOR 10 YEARS, AND 6 FOR 5 YEARS), AND REMAINING 60 WERE
ACQUITTED.

2. THREE TO BE EXECUTED ARE : SAYEH ABDULLA SARIYYA, EMPLOYEE OF
ARAB LEAGUE WHO COURT SAID HAS BEEN "EXPELLED" FROM OTHER ARAB
COUNTRIES; TALAL ABDEL MONEIM, STUDENT AT ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING; AND KAREM ABDEL MEGUID, CADET AT
TECHNICAL MILITARY COLLEGE. THESE THREE, ESPECIALLY SARIYYA,
RECRUITED IMMATURE YOUNG MEN, DELUDED THEM AND TOOK ADVANTAGE
OF THEM ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS; THUS LARGE NUMBER OF ACQUITTALS.

3. COMMENT: SENTENCING THREE TO DEATH AND ACQUITTING 60
APPEARS TO BE GOE'S ATTEMPT TO SATISFY EVERYONE -THOSE WHO
WANTED STIFF PENALTIES AND THOSE WHO ADVOCATED LENIENCY - WITH
PRISON SENTENCES AS BALANCING FACTOR FOR BOTH SIDES. AS MIGHT
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BE EXPECTED, COMPROMISE HAS NOT MADE EITHER SIDE HAPPY, BUT

GENERAL CONSENSUS IS SITUATION HAS BEEN HANDLED REASONABLY WELL.
OFFENSE WAS SERIOUS, MANY WERE CAUGHT IN ACTUAL ACT, AND GOE
HAS ACTED WITH COMMENDABLE RESTRAINT.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, COURT DECISIONS, VANDALISM, MILITARY SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO05495
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750193-0663
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750683/aaaacxuh.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENTENCES PASSED ON DEFENDANTS IN MILITARY TECHNICAL COLLEGE ATTACK
TAGS: PINT, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006